

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application, as amended herein, are respectfully requested.

In response to the various objections to the drawings, formal drawings were filed on September 29, 2004 in the above-identified application. Additionally, paragraph [0028] of the specification is amended to include reference to character "44a" of FIG. 6 in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) and correct a typo. Also, paragraph [0034] of the specification is amended to correct the erroneous reference numeral noted by the Examiner. Acknowledgement of receipt and entry of the formal drawings and withdrawal of the drawing objections are requested.

The Abstract of the Disclosure is amended to use proper language and format and withdrawal of the objection thereto is requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 - 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Independent Claims 1, 6, and 8 are amended to remove the indefiniteness. The claims as amended have the clarification that the fixtures are for assembling cores and are either operably associated with or carried by the rotating table, and therefore are part of the apparatus and not an article.

Additionally, Claim 5 included an unclear limitation relating to the pivoting of the truck, but would be otherwise be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection. Claim 5 was amended to specify that the truck is pivoting with respect to the framework. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35U.S.C. §112 rejection of Claims 1 -10 is respectfully requested.

Turning to the prior art rejection, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hauser-Lienhard (U.S. 3,741,281). Prior to discussing the merits of the Examiner's position, Applicant believes it would be helpful to briefly describe and characterize the Hauser-Lienhard reference. Hauser-Lienhard teaches an apparatus for carrying out a full-form casting process using a turntable. As stated at col. 6, ll. 6-21, of Hauser-Lienhard:

At station D the cast body is permitted to cool and solidify and, upon advance of the flask to station E, the cast body may be removed from the sand mass. In this station, compressed air is again supplied to chamber 14 beneath the floor 12 to fluidize and loosed the sand to enable the casting body to be drawn out without effort. The cast forms are displaced upon the conveyor belt 35 and ... the flask 7 is tilted to dump the sand remaining in the flask on the conveyor belt 38 ... The recovered sand enters the mixer 40 and replenished sand may be returned by another belt ... to station A.

As indicated above, the articles leaving the turntable 5 are "casting forms, i.e., the cast article. (See also Col. 5, ll. 17 - 18 - "... a conveyor belt 35 for carrying away the cast article ...") The flask 7 contains the sand that has been left behind by the mold that was destroyed during the removal of the metal article. The flask 7 is then tilted to dump the loose sand onto a conveyor belt. Contrary to the statement in the Office Action, Hauser-Lienhard does not teach "transferring means that transfers a mold/core fixture to horizontal conveyor 35 (for cast parts) and/or horizontal conveyor 38 for mold/core sand from the fixture."

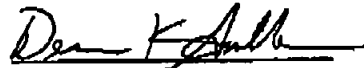
First, Hauser-Lienhard does not teach the use of core assemblies in his casting process, Hauser-Lienhard utilizing "a thermally destructible pattern 31 of foam synthetic resin (foamed polystyrene)" (col 5, ll. 40 - 42) Second, there can be no teaching of placing core assemblies on any conveyor in Hauser-Lienhard since core assemblies are not employed in Hauser-Lienhard. Rather, Hauser-Lienhard only teaches placing finished castings on one conveyor 35 and loose molding sand on another conveyor 38.

Each of the rejected independent claims 1, 6, and 8 of the above-identified application includes a limitation directed to a means for engaging a core assembly and placing a core assembly onto a conveyor belt. Hauser-Lienhard does not teach this claimed means for the reasons discussed above. It is axiomatic that to support a 35 USC §102(b) rejection that reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. Accordingly, the 35 USC §102(b) rejection of Claims 1 - 10 must be withdrawn.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that such a communication may advance the prosecution of the present application.

It is believed that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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